DEEP SPACE

Writer-director Rian Johnson takes the reins of the 'Star Wars' franchise and explores the depths of characters old and new in 'The Last Jedi.'

SPOTLIGHT 1

Daisy Ridley as Rey

Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker

COURTESY OF LUCASFILM VIA AP

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SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS

FRANK BELLINO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Idyllwild-area residents Morgan Cannon and Marsha Kennedy aren't leaving any doubt how they feel about visitors who hit the mountains to play in the snow. They complain of tourists' failure to respect residents' property in any number of ways.

WEATHERING TOURISM

Not enough room for visitors, who don't always play nice anyway, residents say

By Jeff Horseman
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Dreams of a white Christmas can become nightmares for those living in and around Idyllwild and Pine Cove, who say the influx of snow-seeking visitors is often more than mountaintop communities can handle.

Littering, roads blocked by parked cars, trespassing and visitors relieving themselves outside are among the problems described by Marsha Kennedy, an Idyllwild-area resident who is concerned about the consequences of what she calls "snow play."

"We would like to have more snow-play areas, but we're not sure where they would put them. The main thing is to let snow-play visitors know what they're going to encounter when they come up here."

— Marsha Kennedy, a San Jacinto Mountains resident

Kennedy was alarmed when a watershed protection program run by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District took to the web to tout Humber Park, a trailhead outside Idyllwild, as an ideal sledding spot. Complaints from Kennedy and others led to the post's deletion.

"We don't see our snow-play visitors decreasing," she said. "We didn't want (the Humber Park post) to go out urging more people to come out before we can prepare."

Nestled in the San Jacinto Mountains, the unincorporated communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove offer seclusion and scenic beauty for residents and tourists who ascend thousands of feet to hike and camp among

IDYLLWILD » PAGE 9

VENTURA COUNTY

Firefighter killed in mammoth Thomas fire

32-year-old leaves a pregnant wife and a 2-year-old. Details of his death not released.

From staff and news service reports

A firefighter from San Diego was killed Thursday while battling the mammoth Thomas fire, the fourth-largest in California history, in coastal mountains.

The San Diego-based Cal Fire firefighter, identified as Cory Iverson, was working in the Fillmore area of Ventura County, officials said. Authorities have not released details of how he died.

Iverson, 32, is survived by his pregnant wife, Ashley, and their 2-year-old daughter. Their second daughter is due next spring.

"I am very saddened to report that a firefighter fatality has occurred on the Thomas incident," said Cal Fire Chief Ken Pimlott in a statement.

Officials in a news conference in Ventura County said they have launched an investigation into the accident.

On Thursday afternoon, dozens of police and fire vehicles escorted a hearse carrying Iverson's flag-draped body to the county medical examiner's office in Ventura.

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LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Paralyzed Inland deputy is back home

By Brian Rokos
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More than two months after Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Jason McMillan was among those shot at the Route 91 Harvest country festival in Las Vegas, he is home to continue his rehabilitation.

McMillan

McMillan is paralyzed from the waist down, the Sheriff's Department said Thursday in its first statement on McMillan's condition. The Las Vegas shooter killed 58 people and wounded more than 500 others on Oct. 1.

In an interview with ABC's "World News Tonight," the off-duty deputy said his first thought was to protect his fiancée, Fiorella Gaete.

"I just made sure she was behind me," he said in the interview. "I put my arms out as wide as I could to make myself a bigger target."

MCMILLAN » PAGE 2

INSIDE

Around the Inland area, it's 'Nutcracker' time

PHOTO BY ANDREW FOULK

From Temecula to Rancho Cucamonga, the iconic, family-friendly ballet is on stage again. LOCAL 1

More moves in Colonies case

Colonies Partners LP has filed a claim seeking more than $45 million in damages from San Bernardino County. NEWS 4

LeBron too much for Lakers

In his first face-to-face look at Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball, LeBron James posted a triple-double and led the Cavaliers to a 121-112 victory over the Lakers on Thursday night. SPORTS 1

'WE ARE NOT POLITICAL,' CHIEF SAYS

Fire district hardly laughing at anti-Trump late-night skit

Chino Valley logo used in spot urging people to burn 'Make America Great Again' hats

By Brian Rokos
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Chino Valley Fire District Chief Tim Shackelford is doing a slow burn.

Shackelford received emails Thursday criticizing his department for getting involved in politics after the airing of a faux public-service announcement displaying the fire district logo. The announcement purported to show how discontented supporters of President Donald Trump could safely burn their "Make America Great Again" hats.

It was part of a skit Wednesday on the late-night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" in which someone who

KIMMEL » PAGE 5

CHRIS PIZZELLO — INVISION/AP FILE

Jimmy Kimmel, here hosting the Oscars, introduced an "important safety announcement" Wednesday.